

COLLARD & COLLARD PIANOS at W. Robinson & Co.

DURING 1894, according to *The Publisher's Circular*, 5,300 new books and 1,185 new editions published in England, an increase of some 200 over last year.

THE sanitary authorities of Macao are busy just now fumigating all the sewers of the Holy City and slaking them with a solution of chloride of potassium and chloride of lime. Why?

OUR Macao correspondent reports the death on Tuesday last, from pneumonia, of Captain Sa. Ninnos. The deceased officer was very popular in Macao, and in Timor, where he was at one time Colonial Secretary.

THE Board of the New-Balmoral Gold Mining Co., Limited, yesterday received applications for a total of 7,108 shares. All tenders above \$5 per share were allotted in full and 50 per cent. of those made at \$5 each.

WE are reliably informed that by no less than 40 fees have just been paid by students who are going for the summer to Oxford Local Examinations, while the fees for 35 candidates for the Preliminary Exam., which is quite an innovation in the educational programme of this year, have also been paid. And the cry is—"gill they come in!"

AS will be seen by an advertisement in another part of this issue, a fourth dividend of five per cent. will be payable on application at the office of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, Hongkong, on and after Thursday, the 28th inst., to all creditors of the New-Balmoral Bank Corporation, Limited, in Liquidation, whose claims have been received and admitted.

DETAILS of the capture of Muscat by the Redoubts, which was illustrated with the present Sultan, are now to hand. The latest news states that the Sultan has recaptured the eastern portion of the town. The British sub-upts were all removed from the capital in perfect safety. It is uncertain what the result of the insurrection will be; no one has been nominated Sultan by the insurgents, who are inhabitants of hill tracts near Muscat.

NEW piano repairing machinery, received by W. Robinson & Co.

WE understand that an application was made in Chambers this morning to Mr. A. C. Wise, Acting Puisne Judge, by Mr. W. G. Gray, late Herd Master of Kowloon College, for release from the Debtors' Prison, he having been locked up recently owing to his failure to satisfy a claim of \$988. Mr. J. G. Phillips opposed the application and his lordship therefore made the order in which the creditors must show cause within three weeks why the debtor should not be discharged.

A TONING journal says that since the introduction of the electric light public performers are able to preserve their voices in better condition and are fifty per cent. more often in good voice. They are cooler, do not perspire, and are not hoarse while singing or reciting. The atmosphere of the theater and the equal temperature of the whole building has greatly diminished the risk of taking cold. Their throats are not parched and their voices not injured so much as in houses where gaslight is used.

How grateful and needful the present rain is to the gentle and beneficial to the soil. On the 6th we have had a certain pleasant shower, which has been a very welcome appearance on all our generally beautiful grounds. Every one knows how much our streets and lawns need a thorough flushing, and we have felt somewhat uneasy to find the rain so long deferred. The showers of the last two days have, therefore, been most welcome. We do not ask for 12 inches in one day, such as we had in October last, but a few more of these wet days will brighten up the face of nature and do a vast amount of good.

THE Volunteers' Ball of last evening was one of the most successful ever given by that popular organization. The decorations were elegant in the extreme, very appropriate and, indeed, beautiful. Major-General Barker opened the ball at 9.30, and from that time on to the end dancing was continued enthusiastically. There were over 500 guests present, among them most of the leading residents, including Commodore Boyce, R.N., and other naval and military officers stationed at this port. The supper was on the "come when you please" plan, and was good in quality and highly satisfactory as far as quantity was concerned. The Volunteers are to be congratulated on the unqualified success achieved.

JUDGING by the follow g which appeared in the San Francisco *Chronicle* three weeks ago, there are a number of very 'bad' had swindlers around the company parading under the name of the far-famed "Golden Gate," whose days are now fairly numbered. Our contemporary says:—It is proposed by some legislators to investigate the many spurious investment companies which are swindling credulous people in this State. The idea is a good one, for nothing damages a community so much in the eyes of the foreign settlers as the presence of these swindling companies. When a concern offers a 27 per cent. interest on any deposit, as a recent fake investment company in San Diego did, the authorities should have power to examine its books and, if fraud is found, to shut up its doors. These swindlers who offer three or four times ordinary bank interest attract only imple people, but the general public should be cautioned to them just as it is protected from the three-card monte man or the gambler with the shell game.

MRS. ARCHIBALD COLQUHOUN has written a long letter to *The Times* in the hope of waking up the British people to a sense of the importance of the action which America is taking to complete the Nicaragua Canal. Nature favors this route between the Atlantic and the Pacific, and Mr. Colquhoun says it is estimated that the canal will take over 7,000,000 tons of cargo per annum, yielding some sixteen million dollars in traffic receipts. The canal is expected to be complete in seven years. "To a nation like ours," Mr. Colquhoun points out, "carrying some 75 per cent. of the ocean traffic of the world, the execution of this canal—which in one sense or another has been discussed for over three centuries—will be of transcendent importance. To the United States this new enterprise will mean an immense transformation of

W. ROBINSON & Co., piano builders, tuners and repairers.

A JAPANESE steel cruiser named *Sama*, which has been constructed at the Yokosuka ship-building yard, was to be launched on the 9th inst. in the presence of the Empress of Japan.

THE Mission steam-launch *Dai Syong* will call alongside the wharf, loading coals, pennant &c. between 10 and 10.30 a.m., on Sunday, to convey men ashore to the 11 o'clock service, returning about 12.30 p.m.

THE course for the Royal Hongkong Yacht Club's race to-morrow will be from the Submarine Mining Pier, round the wharf, Fairway buoy, No. 1, Dock buoy, and off pier, while Fairway buoy, No. 2, Dock buoy, leaving all to starboard and finishing at the starting line; distance 13 miles.

MISS GRACE HAWTHORNE, a "star" actress, will give a short dramatic season in Singapore shortly. The Company is at present in Hongkong. Miss Hawthorne is gifted with dramatic powers and has national instincts of a high order, and is said to be supported by *artistes* who have appeared with her on the London stage.

FULL stock of banjos, mandolines, guitars, accordions, strings and fittings of all kinds at W. Robinson & Co.

At the Magistracy to-day Mr. HATHORNE sentenced LO Heung Tsai, a broker, to six months' imprisonment for receiving 180 silk handkerchiefs, valued at \$65, well knowing them to have been stolen. A witness in the case, who tried to get his 'pull' off, was fined \$10 for doing just what the late Mr. George Washington, of the United States of America, never could do.

THE *Sourabaya Courant* dwells upon the paralyzing effects of the sugar crisis on trade. Several branches of industry mostly depending on sugar-making are now hard put to it. Capital is withdrawing from the imperilled lines of business and Java planters resort to economy and retrenchment in all direction, with the result of increasing the number of the unemployed.

A NEW YORK evening paper says:—"The old 'sea shark,' Captain Terry, has been engaged" to sail the Cup defender of 1895. It is said that in many respects he is the superior of Captain Henson, who sailed the *Vigilant*. His superiority at the tiller is admitted, and he is considered a great judge of wind and knows better when to bring the yacht about than any other yachtsman."

ON Monday afternoon there will be another interesting Rugby football match between the Hongkong Football Club and the Navy. Club in colours; Navy in white. Kick-off at 4.45.

THE following will play for the Club:—Messrs. R. Thomson, full back; A. S. Anton, L. P. D. De Vitre, R.F.; H. H. Perry, D. Landt. Three-quarters: Capt. Stewart, R.E., H. J. Goold, H. J. C. C. Bowring, E. J. Sanders. L. J. Matheson, R.E., R. C. Edwards, L. G. Woodcock, H.K.R., A. H. Barlow, L. G. N. Salmon, R.B., G. H. Potts (Captain), forwards. *Reserves*—Mr. W. C. Morecam, R.N. *Lifelines*—Messrs. W. M. Wood and A. N. Other.

THE following appeared in a recent issue of *The Christian*:—"The Lord's Day Observance Society have called the attention of the Colonial Office to the facilities given to the British Government on Sunday at Hongkong" and have asked the Government to consider some form of licence to do the same. The Society, in view of a movement to redress this anomaly, urged that no solution should be sought which would tend to increase the amount of Sunday labour in the port. The committee have been assured by the Colonial Secretary that no further exemption would be granted, and that the privileges now extended to the mail steamers would cease on the termination of their present time-contracts.

THE Bill recently introduced in the Bengal Legislative Council for dealing in a practical manner with lepers is, according to the *Rangoon Times*, the outcome of the agitation of four or five years ago on the subject, which was followed by the appointment of a Royal Commission.

The report of that Commission having been duly presented to the Local Governments and the Government of India, it is now proposed to be resolved to first introduce a Bill into the Bengal Council embodying the views of the Government on the subject before making those views legally applicable throughout the Indian Empire. The Bill embodies no scheme for the general arrest and incarceration of lepers; its provisions, so far as pauper lepers are concerned, will be confined to municipal towns, for lepers found in such a suitably-equipped leper asylum has been provided; and for the present there is only one recognized public Lepet Asylum in Bengal province. Lastly, those provisions of the Bill which regulate the trades of lepers, and which, on the passing of the Bill, may be enforced in any municipality as soon as proper by-laws have been passed, have, it is believed, been framed about with all the safeguards necessary to prevent abuse and persecution on the one hand, and on the other hand to protect the public as far as may be from the risk, whether real or imaginary, of contracting a disease which has by all nations and in all ages been regarded with special abhorrence.

A DEEP gloom was cast over the shipping community on Monday when we reached here from Amoy of the death of the Captain H. C. A. Harris, the courteous, capable and experienced commander of the Douglas Co.'s coasting steamer *Namoa*. During the last trip of the *Namoa* up the coast Captain Harris suffered so severely from inflammation of the bowels that he was obliged to hand over his command to Mr. W. Thom, his Chief Officer, who brought her up to Hongkong, and the vessel remained in the Amoy hospital. No one could have supposed that the attack, though acute, would prove fatal, and the news of Captain Harris' death therefore came as a severe shock to all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. Captain Harris had been in the Douglas Co.'s service close upon twenty years, having joined the *Thales* on December 20th, 1875. By hard work, conscientiousness in his duties, strict integrity and unflinching interest in all that pertained to the welfare of his distinguished employers, Captain Harris soon made his mark in the Douglas Line, and when, after the lamentable murder of Captain Pocock by pirates in December, 1890, he was promoted to the command of the *Namoa*, it was generally considered that the Directors could not have done better.

Ever Comic Song and Dance Albums at W. Robinson & Co.

It is to be hoped that *trade* will soon feel the thrill of a long-looked-for revival.

We are sorry to hear that Mr. Wm. Macbell, one of the most indefatigable members of the Staff of Queen's College, a good all-round athlete, a zealous volunteer and staunch totalitist, is laid up in the Civil Hospital with a violent attack of intermittent fever. There are very few Macbells knocking about in the Gorgeous East, and it is to be hoped therefore that he will soon pull round and be as much in evidence as of yore.

THUS the *Felaco Chronicle* of the 12th ultimo:— It is so much easier for a war correspondent to sit in his hotel in New York and say "I told you so" than to remain at the front that one can hardly wonder at James Creelman's conspicuous absence from the active military operations in and about Wol-hag-wet. As the lamented Spookendyke might have said, all he wants is a bat with a bullet-hole in it and a vivid imagination to be a first-class war correspondent. Nevertheless he is not on the ground, and Walter G. Smith is.

MR. Frederick Tennyson is still living at a great age, and his home is at St. Ewold's, on the island of Jersey. Many who are familiar with the works of Lord Tennyson know that his brother Frederick also wrote verse, and good verse, too. Frederick's schoolfellows were Hallam and Gladstone. Of the former, he says "He was a young man of the most wonderful powers I ever knew, and I am sure, as Alfred was, that if he had lived he would have outshone us all." The poet is now in his eighty-seventh year, and, like Mr. Gladstone, was Professor Blackie, one of the most interesting figures still remaining among us.

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WHO CAN TELL US?

Who will pay \$5 reward for information leading to the identification of the perpetrator of the following awful atrocity:—

"EXPRESS.

LOST, STOLEN OR STRAYED,
Through Scotch Mitt,

A figure last seen at the Volunteer Ball dressed in uniform, with 3 stripes and a crown. The finder will be rewarded on returning same to the undersigned.

MCGINTY,
c/o The Home for Lost Dawgs,"
Hongkong, 16th March, 1895.

Whether this isn't rather "rough on rats?" Whether the talented composer was not slightly "mixed" when he took up his trenchant pen to indict the *Express* in question?

Whether the report that the Government employees are henceforth to draw half the "screw" at 3s. to the dollar when on active service and half pay at 4s.-the dollar when on leave is based on hard facts?

And whether nine out of ten of the ratepayers would not like to "sign on" with the Government under such conditions, provided the regulations related to the Widows' Fund are somewhat modified?

Whether the "figure" lost at the Volunteer Ball will not be run to earth at St. Patrick's Bay.

Why St. Patrick's Ball should not prove a phenomenal success?

Who's the "Paul Pry" of Kowloon?

Who will not exclaim "better late than never" when the costly new Central Market is formally opened next month?

When the new and greatly needed Central Market is in working order, how the authorities will get rid of the piles of foul-smelling and fever-disseminating rubbish which has accumulated under the cluster of scattering hovels that have for so long served the purpose of a central market?

Who is to blame for the new market costing the ratepayers a good deal more than they originally bargained for?

Why the "houses" in the resumed Chinese Tat-ping-shan, otherwise the "Forbidden City," should not be destroyed—preferably by fire-forthwith?

Why the Chinese residents of Macao are going in for noisy chin-chin Chin-pigloo just now?

Is it because an epidemic of diphtheria is devastating the Chinese population of the Holy City?

Whether the *Victor Emmanuel's* relief will turn out this side of Christmas Day 1900?

What has become of the Hongkong Chess Club?

When "Boss" Richardson and his trusty henchman, Mr. A. W. Dyer, will start another Billiard Handicap at the Hongkong Hotel?

Why the Commodore of the Royal Hongkong Yacht Club does not cause the local papers to be furnished with a reliable report of the Club's Sunday races in time for publication in the local press on Sunday evening?

Does the Commodore expect 'poor journalists' to own yachts?

Why some yacht-owners have withdrawn from the R.H.Y.C.?

How it was that the *Hongkong Telegraph* got the whole of the numerous Tat-ping-shan awards of 95 square inches of space on the 5th instant, while the *Daily Press'* version of the awards occupied 200 square inches of space and was not proclaimed until the 11th instant?

What price the "art of boiling down" dry-assault statistics?

Whether the labours of the Retrenchment Committee will result in the bonanza being taken out of local politics and leave some money in the pockets of the people.

Whether the extension to Tytam Waterworks will be completed within two years from this date?

Whether Li Heng-chang's head was saved recently by virtue of the intervention of the Corps Diplomatique?

When the first typhoon of the season (95-'96) will be reported?

Whether we shall have another hubbub about typhoon warnings this year?

When Mr. William Haynay will "square up" the balance due on the Black Plague Concerts account?

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**THE HONGKONG HOTEL CO.,
LIMITED.**

dividend, to be able to inform you, as is set forth in the report, that the half year just referred to shows after paying off the large amount of interest from the Profit and Loss account, a credit balance of \$370.92 against a debit balance of \$10 107.17 as compared with the corresponding period in the previous year. The receipts accruing for the first two months of the current year exhibit an increase, in comparison with the corresponding preceding years, and it is only to be hoped that we may continue to enjoy the benefit of this improvement in the ensuing months. The Directors, contrary to the usual custom in vogue in this colony, have thought it advisable this time, for the information of shareholders, to lay before you in the present report a more lengthy statement of the Company's affairs, by detailing therein the revenues from various sources under separate heads, and comparing the same with those of the previous year. With the exception, however, of two items, the Billiard and Steam Launch accounts, they all, I am glad to say, indicate an increase. Taking, therefore, all these facts together, I have no hesitation in saying that the shareholders must all feel very much pleased with the report, which I will ask them to adopt later on. The Directors, as pointed out to you at the last meeting, have adopted with advantage the first recommendation of the shareholders of the first year, to the effect of increasing receipts and reducing expenditures, and I can assure you that we are following a policy in which neither pains nor effort will be spared to make the Hotel attractive to visitors and to the public in general and also to render it a lucrative concern for the shareholders. Our new Manager, Mr. E. F. Richardson, appears to be a hard working and painstaking man, and I hope that he will continue to make himself headstrong in the requirements and needs of the Hotel. Personally, I have not the least doubt in my mind that under an attentive and a good management, prompt always to further any steps which may tend to promote the interest of the Hotel and to stop any defect which may be productive of a contrary result, this Company must undoubtedly prosper and that it will be able to pay a moderate dividend and that before very long, I must not detain you any longer, but before proceeding to the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any questions any shareholder may wish to address to me.

There being no questions the Chairman moved and Mr. Parfitt seconded the adoption of the report.

Carried unanimously.

The Chairman then announced the re-election of directors as the next business before the meeting, but that he will postpone the adoption of the re-election with account of his falling health and other important duties demanding his attention.

Mr. D. Jones then moved, and Mr. Peter seconded, the re-election of Mr. Parfitt, which was unanimously carried.

Mr. Peter moved and Mr. Ip Chee seconded the appointment of Mr. Wilcox to seat on the Board.

Carried unanimously.

The Chairman then said that this concludes the business of the meeting, and he thanked the shareholders for their attendance.

THE POLICE REPORT (1894).

The interesting report of the Captain Superintendent of Police on crime in the Colony and the Straits for the year ending 31st December 1893, is published in these columns *in extenso* we have taken therefrom a couple of extracts which are of special interest to the general public:-

GANG ROBBERIES IN CHINA-TOWN.

The most unsatisfactory feature in the year's returns is the increase in the number of cases of robbery with violence, and especially the very serious nature of the gang robberies at 30, Wing Lok Street; 30, Wing Lok Street; and at 50, Wing Lok Street.

With regard to the increase in number of these cases it is right to mention that during the five months from the 1st of May to 30th September when from 6 to 10 per cent. of the force was engaged on plague work there occurred thirteen cases as against six during the same period in 1893. However, the three most serious cases occurred after the month of August, to wit: regular duty. The winter months are, of course, the most dangerous; and it is worthy of note that it is reported from Canton that gang robberies of a similar nature have been very rife there this winter.

I should also point out the extraordinary cases with which these robberies can be effected.

In the Jervois Street and the two Wing Lok Streets, and, in fact, the inmates of the shops outnumbered the robbers by more than two to one, and yet in each case the robbers offered the slightest resistance or endeavoured to communicate the alarm to persons in the street or their neighbours.

The robbers, of course, rely on this 'passivity' and are enabled, unless some accident happens, as at 50, Wing Lok Street, to carry out one of these raids under the very noses of the Police.

It is not, only in the presence of robbery that the sheep-like conduct of the inmates of the second Wing Lok Street caused the inmates of the shop, although they admitted being able to identify the robbers, absolutely refused to accompany the Police in the search for the men.

One of their number was at last induced to lend his services, but it is not too much to say that he was virtually compelled to acquiesce. After two hours' search he asked to go home, and the Police Station, all night, would not be forthcoming for the morning search.

After the arrest of the five men concerned in the robbery at 50, Wing Lok Street, it was, of course, desired to ascertain, if possible, whether they were the same gang that had robbed No. 10 in the same street.

The inmates of the latter shop were asked to go to the street and look at the men and they emphatically refused to do so.

There are two remedies to prevent the recurrence of such outrages as these robberies constitute.

One, of course, is to keep the Police Force up to its full strength as far as possible throughout the year, and the other is to perfect the Chinese detective branch of the Force, drawing at the same time assistance possible from the District Watchmen Force, who should be brought into closer touch with the Police.

COMPULSORY REGISTRATION OF SERVANTS.

I referred in my report of last year to the number of landed by the Chinese, and regret to say that there was an diminution in the number of

cover it, although after five months' correspondence they did produce half of the number of dollars.

I suggested registration of servants last year as a safeguard against these larcenies, and I have since recommended that licensing of servants be made compulsory by law. I am sure that the law which formerly existed in this respect because a dead letter. But the main reason for that was the apathy of residents in this colony.

It was too much trouble to spend ten minutes in registering a servant before engaging him, and so a boy who has robbed his former master or a chair coolie who has misconducted himself and been dismissed find employment probably next door, where they possibly repeat the same offences.

I regard the licensing of private chair coolies at any rate as a most desirable and even necessary measure in the interests of law and order. The Hongkong private chair coolie is one of the most impudent and unruly members of the community, and the sole reason is that neither his master nor the police have direct control over him.

If the coolie is, as a public chair coolie of Jirikacka is, a very great improvement, would be appreciably observed in his behaviour.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by correspondents in this column.]

HOW TO MAKE QUEEN'S COLLEGE PAY.

SIR, THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."

Sir,—Begin by making the College financially easy. Remove the Museum there, where it will be more fully appreciated and also be in a more suitable building than at present. As "rough" nowadays it is chiefly visited by Chinese, though we are careful to make the subject of the College it is reasonable to conclude that many more Europeans and Chinese would inspect and study its contents. The Public Library, too, might with advantage be removed to the imposing, capacious, cool and fire-proof Assembly Hall of the College. It should be lighted by electricity at night and be made accessible up to a last hour to those whose daily avocations preclude them from benefiting by its existence, owing to its being open only while they are hard at work during the day. The new building, with its magnificent hall, with its many splendid rooms and its spectators' gallery, its smooth floor, free from inconvenient and unsightly pillars—a truly palatial apartment—incapacitated superior to anything of the kind in the colony—for balls, social gatherings and public events. Then the large and centrally situated City Hall apartments could be let as public or private offices. Again, no stone should be thrown which will not do some good. The College neutral ground on which young and old, Asiatic and Westerner, can meet on equal terms and with one common object in view. This, or some such "plan of campaign" could be carried out without in any way interfering with the educational department of the institution but, on the contrary, properly managed, would greatly augment its unquestionable good sphere of usefulness. Create a more fitting place, for the claimant, for the imagination of a public library in this colony? A cool and well ventilated but thoroughly sanitary, accessible to the masses, airy corridors open to the four winds of heaven, where to read, "the air mimbly and sweet recommends itself unto our senses." Furthermore, part of the basements could, and should be, converted into a good gymnasium, with a view to the improvement of the students' physique, which is not thought enough of nowadays in the East. Instructors could be found in abundance, no there's no excuse under that head. The gravel court-yard should be covered with concrete: It could then be better used for tennis and other games. But it is idle to talk at the present juncture. Into further details as to what could and should be done to make Queen's College pay. If properly handled, it could be made to pay, but it will require a lot also in Hongkong, in the not far distant future, becoming a seat of learning in the Far East—the like of which our fathers never dreamed of. The need for an Anglo-Chinese university in Hongkong may not be felt in my day, but with the opening of China on one hand and the rapid progress of the Japanese on the other, added to a crisis influx of Europeans to the Orient in the near future, the need for a well equipped university will be felt here some day. If Queen's College is to be the place, it ought to be. It would be necessary only to send one's sons home for "a little tuition"; and one's were taught trades or put into business that would be unnecessary. It is not necessary to send a Hongkong youth to Europe to fit him to hold the position of engineer on board a steamer or be master of a ship. All that a young man requires to learn in the marine engineering class can be taught him in the workshops of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company; and, as far as navigation and seamanship is concerned, arrangements could be made locally at any time for a boy to serve his apprenticeship.

Queen's College is, in spite of last year's plague and other disadvantages, very nearly self-supporting; and, were the institution carefully fostered by the powers that be and "run on" more liberally, it would not only pay its way, but would be a great credit to the credit of its founders in all ages. The ball is in the foot of the Executive, the goal is not far distant; all that is needed is a judiciously aimed kick; this will send it through the goal-posts amidst the plaudits of interested spectators of almost every nationality under the sun. To use another metaphor: The child is pining through lack of proper nourishment. There is plenty of milk, but the mother who will not suckle the suckling's life ebb gradually and while the means are at hand to save its life with consummate ease?

These, Sir, are my rough ideas of what could and should be done with Queen's College, and I shall think myself well repaid for the trouble of these elaborating them if, in the first place, my conscientious attention is favoured with space in your popular publication. If, in some attention is given to what I submit is an important matter that affects the interests of the whole body of ratepayers.

Yours faithfully,
A BRITON.

Hongkong, 15th March, 1895.

The subject being an important one, we have given the required space to our correspondent's lengthy communication. At the present time

The whole building and the compound in which it stands are absolutely deserted for 14 out of every 24 hours except by a few hungry rats and mice; and as far as concerns the present uses to which the costly edifice is put the thousand or twelve hundred scholars taught as well be put through their facings in class rooms costing the ratepayers a twentieth part of the enormous expenditure incurred in erecting, and then patching up the Aberdeen Street academy." But it is too late now to cry against the mills—assuming it, for the sake of argument, we have been split—all that can be done is to get the possible results from the institution. It now remains to report being met by the latest possibilities of the press.—*THE FREE PRESS*.

LATEST DETAILS OF THE FALL OF WEI-HAI-WEI.

THE EVIDENCE OF A RELIABLE EYE WITNESS.

A private letter, lately received by the *Shanghai Mercury* from one of the foreigners who was at Luikungtao during the fight with the Japanese, contains several interesting details. Referring to the Chinese soldiers the letter states that they were the most abject cowards, throwing themselves on the ground and absolutely refusing to fight. As many as twenty soldiers were decapitated in one morning for refusal of duty, but even this would scarcely induce the others to make even a pretence of fighting. All the resistance that was offered was either made by the sailors of the fleet or by the foreigners.

Another factor was the intense cold experienced. The soldiers were not prepared for such weather, and suffered terribly, huddling together wherever they could find shelter for the sake of the warmth of each other's bodies. Even some of the foreigners suffered from the cold, few of them having clothing adequate for their needs. After the sinking of the ships, by which the warships of several of the foreigners were lost, this suffering became more severe.

Admiral Ting made no secret of his intention to commit suicide before surrendering, and when he sent out the first letter asking for terms, he called such of his officers, Chinese and Foreign, as were handy, and bade them farewell, bidding his personal effects among them as souvenirs. He then stated his fate and declined to listen to any expostulations, calmly carrying out his determination when ready. During all the fighting the Admiral kept wherever the fire was hottest, and the writer says that, in view of what he finally did, he felt sure he hoped to be killed in action.

(Our correspondent, Mr. Ting was a man, and so chose death in preference to dishonour.—Ed. H. K. T.)

THE ORIGIN OF THE NATIONAL FLAG OF JAPAN.

The following interesting information relative to the new well known national flag of Japan was recently translated for the *Yokohama Mail* from the *Yokohama*, a Japanese vernacular print:—

After the arrival of American steamers (men-of-war) at Uraga in 1853 the country became considerably enlightened, and several far-sighted men tried to improve the state of things by the introduction of Western ideas. Foremost among these men was Shimazu Shoin, Lord of Satsuma. He caused three battle-ships to be constructed after Western models. About the same time the Shogunate also conceived the idea of building foreign-fashioned ships, and having that the Lord of Satsuma had already set the scheme on foot, it issued an order to him to the effect that the vessels should be named after the Shogunate on their own names. In the summer of the following year, when the construction of the ships was nearly finished, Prince Shimazu had occasion to come to Yedo. One day while visiting at the Shogunate Count's residence met Abe Isenomiya, the Chief Councillor. Among other topics their conversation turned on the question of a Japanese national flag. The Prince observed that he considered it inconvenient that there was no mark by which a Japanese vessel might be distinguished from one belonging to another country, especially as the flag he had in view of opening communication with the Loochoo group would increase the risk of a Japanese vessel being stranded on a foreign shore. He thought also that when the ships then in course of construction in Satsuma for the use of the Shogunate should be completed and brought up to Yedo Bay, some suitable flag ought to be hoisted on them. The Prince asked the Councillor whether any decision had been come to by the Regency as to what kind of national insignia to adopt. The Councillor replied that the idea was good, but that owing to pressure of important business the Shogunate had no time to attend to that point. He asked the Prince, however, whether he had any suggestion to make on the matter, whereupon the latter replied that, after thinking about it, he had come to the conclusion that the figure of a red ball representing the sun should be adopted as the insignia of the country on account of the meaning of the ideograph composing the name Nippon. The Councillor was much pleased at the Prince's happy conception, and asked him to have two or three specimens made to show to the Shogun and the other Councillors. Four samples were submitted to the Chief Councillor, who wrote to the Prince four or five days later saying that the design had been favourably received by all the Councillors, and that the Shogun himself had expressed great satisfaction with it as it resembled the flag of no other country. On July 11th, 1854, a notification was issued by the Shogunate, over the signature of Councillor Abe, to the effect that in order to avoid confusion all ships owned by Japanese should thenceforth fly a flag representing the sun. On February 25th, 1855, one of the vessels constructed in Satsuma for the use of the Shogunate was brought to Shinsagawa where it cast anchor. That ship was the first to hoist the Japanese flag.

THE FRENCH AND ENGLISH IN MADAGASCAR.

While the war between China and Japan seems to be nearing its end, there is every likelihood that the Janus Gate will be kept ajar through the efforts of the French and Madagascars. (Madagascar is the way *The Madagascar News* designates the inhabitants of the island). M. de Villiers, the French envoy to the Queen of Madagascar, has submitted an ultimatum demanding complete submission to France, but the people of Madagascar are prepared to resist all attempts to subjugate them, says the *London Digest*, confident that their murderous climate and the impossibility of their roads will outweigh the advantages on the French side.

When King Radama II. was crowned as ruler of the Madagascars, in the beginning of the sixties, he wore an English uniform, but his crown was a present from the Emperor of France. For centuries French officers have been in the employ of the Hova Government for some years. He will, of course, direct the operations of the Malagasy troops.

The Hovas are even less civilized than the Abyssinians. Eugen Wolf, the well-known German traveller, writes in the *Tagblatt*, Berlin:—

"The Hovas must be a mixture of Malays and Negroes, else it is impossible to explain their character. They unite in themselves all the bad traits of these two races to such a degree that no room is left for the good traits which the Malay as well as the Negro undoubtedly possesses."

There ever was a people who should be taught order, discipline, honor, truth, and honesty by a plentiful application of the cat, the inhabitants of the island of Madagascar, but are not acknowledged as such by many tribes.

It will be a difficult task for France to put some order into the affairs of the island, but it will be a noble task and a paying one.

The *Madagascar News*, of Antananarivo, contains very belittling and very confident editorial leaders, which forebadow the tactics which the Hovas will meet the invader. That paper says:—

"We are not afraid of France. France evidently does not realize how strong we are, and she cannot afford to expend the enormous sums and the large number of troops necessary to meet us on equal terms. No roads lead through our forests, no bridges span our rivers, which are swarming with crocodiles. While the French are advancing toward our capital, they will be vanquished by our forces and decimated by fever."

But this is mainly the opinion of the English-speaking whites in the island, among whom there are not a few Americans. They meet with equal defiance on the part of the French. A correspondent to the *Figaro*, Paris, writes:—

"All these adventures, in gorgeous uniforms and high-sounding titles, carry themselves like regular fire-eaters and, to do them justice, they do their best to earn their money and the dozen bullets which the French will not fail to award them if they catch them. Their activity is incredible if they know that they are safe during the winter, and profit by it. Meanwhile the Prime Minister, the Princes and Princesses, the Governors and all the officials set an example by presiding a Holy War, while the sorcerers prophesy in the mountain districts, promising all sorts of wonders."

Great was Diana of the Phobians, and great are the warriors and diplomats of *La Belle France* among the wild tribes of the "Dark Continent" and Madagascar.

SPORTING NEWS.

Jake Kilrain has accepted Peter Maher's challenge for an eight-round fight, to be decided in Boston, March 27th. At date of latest advices from the States it had not been decided before what club the contest will be held.

A letter has been received from Frank Craig, the Harlem "Coffee Cooler," in which he says:—

"I suppose you think I am flying my kite too high in agreeing to fight Frank P. Slavin, but I do not think so. Slavin, they claim over here (England) has never been the same boxer since he fought Peter Jackson, who injured him internally. Jim Hall defeated him since he has been running the Rose Hotel, and keeping a hotel with the crash there is in London. Slavin is as good as never been, I don't think he has a chance in defeating me. I will fight at 175 pounds. I have grown big on Southdown mutton and genuine Bass' ale, and while I am going out of my class in fighting a man who aspired to be the champion of the world, you can rest assured I shall be in first-class shape and not in the condition I was when I fought Peter Maher. If I defeat Slavin I am going to make Peter Jackson fight or jump out of England."

Jackson and Mitchell have failed to reach an understanding as to where they will decide their match and the indications now are that the whole thing will be called off. The fault is entirely attributed to Mitchell, and it was doubtless never his intention to fight Jackson when he issued the challenge. The stipulation that he would not fight at the National Sporting Club, gave him the loophole he desired to evade the issue. In case matters reached a climax, the opinion prevails that Mitchell is preparing to let himself loose upon the American public again, and the controversy with Peter was in the nature of a little free advertising for himself, pending his arrival.

If Mitchell is sincere in his anxiety to fight some one, Peter Davies is willing to back Joe Chynoweth against him, or, in fact, any man in England, barring Peter Jackson, for \$2,500 a side. Here is Mitchell's chance.

A carefully guarded secret has just been unearthed, namely, that the Herreshoffs have signed a contract not to build a Cup defender for any one outside of the Iselin-Vanderbilt-Morgan syndicate. There is more maneuvering going on about the sail too. "Watkins," who formerly worked for Gifford, of Fall River, is making the sails for the small boats in a room over the power shop. The seams are diagonal, after the patent of Fatsy of Cowes, so there may be some bother about Mr. Howard Gould's new 20-rater being allowed to use them on the other side. The Cup defender will be a keel boat, with possibly a centreboard forward to check her falling off in light winds. She will not be composite built either, but will be plate "Tobin" bronze. She will have quite a good draught, and in order that she may be built in the works down here, the water has been deepened between the ways in the south yard, and a stone wall will be planted which will form a foundation for her to rest upon while building. In the rear of the ship a mud digger is now at work.

The design is decided upon, and Henry Whitman, of Boston, Mass., and James Coggeshall, of Bristol, are now laying her down. The former laid down the *Navaho*, *Colonia* and *Vigilant*. Coggeshall has not had much experience, and is more of a helper than anything else. Whitman has the office in a book, which has a chain on it, and he is now laying the body plan on the scribbling board.

The firm will give out no information, and the men have been instructed to keep their mouths shut. This order was given out last week. That the new boat will be of Tobin bronze on the bottom there can be no doubt whatever, for iron plates, who have been working in Nyack and on the Delaware, are turning up every day, and some of the best have been taken on. John Duttle, the foreman of the iron and plate workers, who has not been in the company's employ for nearly a year, has returned and will have charge of the iron workers.

Since there is to be a so-called international yacht contest next summer, after all the cabling and quibbling of the past six months, it is gratifying to know that the defence of the Cup by the New York Yacht Club is in the hands of a competent syndicate, Messrs. C. O. Iselin, W. K. Vanderbilt and E. D. Morgan having agreed to build the club candidate for honors, in addition to the two or three others ordered, or about to be ordered, by the Goulds and Eastern yachtsmen.

The undertaking of the enterprise of defending America's Cup could not be in better hands. Each one of the gentlemen named is a genuine yachtsman, who has earned his rank by meritorious service, as well as by extreme liberality in maintaining the sport.

There is, moreover, another feature of the alliance which will at once suggest itself to the knowing ones. Mr. Iselin favors a keel-yacht, Mr. Vanderbilt was a partner in the keel yacht *Colonia*, which, in the judgment of many experts, would have made a much better showing in British waters than the *Vigilant* made, and which was not fully appreciated in the trial races. Mr. Morgan's preference is not known, but it

is unlikely that he would have made common cause with two champions of the keel unless he held their views.

A contest between an American keel sloop and the latest English cutter would dispose of the nursery argument almost at once, by English yachtsmen, that a sailing boat pure and simple might just as appropriately have a side-wheel as a centreboard. The real question to be settled is, whether under absolutely similar conditions we can outbuild the British, and that a keel defender alone can determine.—*Pollux Gazette*.

THE WILD CAT COLUMN.

The depression! An erstwhile "leading" southern daily now inserts two-line advice three times for a shilling.

This is how a certain well-known financier does his business. The applicant for a loan is asked to furnish full particulars, to leave documents, and to call again. Should all be right, on the next visit he is informed that a loan will be granted, but no definite sum is fixed, and he is instructed to call a third time. At the final visit the amount is settled, and the financier sits in his back-keeper, who produces a mortgage or assignment of interest in which the sum is not fixed. Then a cheque is made out, payable to client's order, but with the amount blank. The financier signs this, and requests the client to endorse it, "so that the clerk can fill in the amount and get the cash from the bank." The borrower endorses it accordingly, and the clerk leaves with it. During his absence the deed is signed, still with the amount blank, as the bookkeeper does all that work. The clerk returns, the money is paid over, and the borrower leaves. The cheque has never come to the bank, and it and the deed are now filled in for as large a sum as the security will stand. The cheque is then taken to the bank and cashed in gold. By which complication of devices the usurer has the evidence of the signed deed and the endorsed cheque, and of himself and his factotum and the book-keeper, against the bare testimony of the borrower, who frequently, the borrower's attempt to dispute the claim is apt to end in his committing perjury.

The Mutual Life Assurance Society of New York has just got rid of its oldest annuitant. He bought his annuity in '65. Being then in his 74th year he should, according to all the mortality tables have lived seven years and four months, but the veteran hung out and drew his income for 28 years. When he died at the age of 103 he was over 3,000 dollars to the good on the transaction.

"Much well doing and heavy overdrafts" are said to have caused the stoppage of the Commercial Bank of Newfoundland, which stopped on the 11th inst. The origin of the recent crisis. Same old story. Same old heavy overdraft. Probably same old pious man at the head of affairs.

A better last notorious miser who pegged out for a better last left 150 bell-toppers behind him all full of coppers. The coppers which had overflowed the bell-toppers were stacked away in kegs. The only way to make your money secure, nowadays, is to put it into coppers; then no burglar smaller than a camel can get away with it.

A poor Melbourne widow, in need of £5 for an operation on the eye of one of her five children, was attracted by the advt. of "a lady" willing to lend on furniture. The widow answered the advt. and got a reply from a firm, who congratulated her on not falling into the hands of the Jews. She paid an inspection-fee of 5s. (and 6d. tram-fare) and got a "loan" of £7 2s. of which £5 only was cash, and £2 as a receipt (undated), and thereby made a most successful loan for costs of bill-of-sale. At the end of 10 months the widow had paid £10 to the principal, the lenders claiming a balance due of £15 for principal and arrears of interest. The *Harold* put a solicitor on the track, and £3 10s. was accepted in full of all demands. When are Australian laws to be brought into line with reason on the usury question?

Broken Hill mining information, as placed before the readers of daily papers *over* to be accurate. It is the custom now to submit mining reports in MS. to the managers to whom they refer; what is afterwards laid appears in print. The metropolitan press mostly gets (1) a rebab, (2) a directly-censored wire, or (3) a wire drafted by manager (or directors), and handed to the met scribe in place of his own wire, which, sub tited for censorship, has not found favor with the wit of the earth, and has been cast aside.

The reported discovery of true diamonds in the New Donkey mine, Gordon (Tas.), and an alleged similar find in the Arthur River, some time ago, look very like the fulfilment of a prognostication made, years since, by the late Govt. Geologist, F. Thureau, F.G.S., that diamonds would be found in the coastlands near Mt. Sedgwick. That the whole of the country away back from the West Coast of Tasmania is rich in minerals is well-proved—silver, lead, tin, copper, and gold being liberally distributed. And now diamonds. The mine of Mt. "Harley" more money has been made by small and steady investment, out of solid gold-mining, I quote little Tasman's of late years than on some of the much-advertised big gold-fields of Australia. An interesting article could be written on the ups-and-downs, and marginal chances of small play, within the reach of modest purses, that have taken place within the last few years in the share-market of small Tasmanian ventures—low-priced quotations at which a big gambler would disdain to look, but which have spelled "competencies" for the steady and watchful speculator.

Mt. Morgan's half-yearly output—49,355 lbs., value £205,523; divs. £150,000. This mine is about to make some important trials in treating low-grade ore at a total cost of about 12s. a ton.

Tasmania has, since 1873, produced 71,094 tons of tin, valued at £6,124,434. It is the third largest producer of tin in the world. The Straits, first; Cornwall, second.

Brilliant Block, Charter Towers, 1184 tons for 1895. Since opened, 36,626 tons for 39,762 tons. £36,250 paid in divs.—the bulk during 1894.—*Sydney Bulletin*.

SCOTT'S Emulsion of Pure Cod Liver Oil with Hypophosphates acts both as food and medicine. It not only gives flesh and strength by virtue of its own nutritious properties, but creates an appetite for food that builds up the system. Read the following:—"Scott's Emulsion is in my opinion an excellent and valuable compound. I have given it to consumptive patients and have been delighted with the results obtained. It is pleasant to the taste and can be borne by the most sensitive stomachs."—E. A. ROWLEY, M.D., Exeter-Knowle, Darlington. Any Chemist can supply it.—Sole Agents for Hongkong and the Empire of China:—Watkins & Co., Hongkong.

Today's Advertisements.

THE NEW ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION, LIMITED, IN LIQUIDATION.

PAYMENT OF FOURTH DIVIDEND ON HONGKONG CLAIMS.

NOTICE is hereby given that a FOURTH DIVIDEND OF FIVE (5) PER CENT. will be PAYABLE on Application at the OFFICE of the CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA, HONGKONG, on and after THURSDAY (the 23rd inst.), to all CREDITORS whose CLAIMS have been Received and Admitted.

For the CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA, T. E. SANSON, Accountant, Attorney for the Liquidator, NEW ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION, LIMITED, IN LIQUIDATION, Hongkong, 16th March, 1905. [163]

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

ORDERS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 31RD MARCH, 1905.

FIELD BATTERY.

No. 216.—DUTY—Lieutenant W. MACRELL and Sergeant W. K. WYLLIE.

No. 217.—DRILLS—MONDAY, 5.30 P.M. Company, Plain Clothes.

TUESDAY, 9 P.M. Pr. Gun, Plain Clothes.

FRIDAY, 9 P.M. 7 Pr. Gun, Plain Clothes.

WEDNESDAY—ANNUAL COURSE OF MUSKETRY—Police Range, Kowloon.

Launch to leave NEW PEDDER'S WHARF at 2.30 P.M. Ammunition will be provided on Range.

Uniform Khaki Drill with Gaiters, Helmets (Plate), Belts, Pouches and Carabines.

THURSDAY, 5.30 P.M. Gun, Plain Clothes.

FRIDAY, at 5.30 P.M. Gun, Plain Clothes; 9 P.M. Squad, Plain Clothes.

NOTE.—As there will be at the most only one more opportunity to complete the Annual Course before the inspection by the Major-General Commanding on the 3rd April, and as it is most desirable that a large majority of the Members should have completed the course by that time, it is hoped that every effort will be made to put in an appearance on WEDNESDAY, the 23rd inst.

It has been decided that any Member making a score of 60 points, or over, is entitled to a Marksmanship Badge.

No. 241.—PROMOTION.—The Commandant has been pleased to approve of the following promotions:—

No. 66.—Sergeant A. M. MARSHALL to be Colour Sergeant, dated 14th instant.

No. 79.—Gunner H. A. S. THOMSON to be Corporal, dated 14th instant.

By Order, L. A. GORDON, Capt. R.A., Adjutant, Hongkong Volunteer Corps. [164]

PEAK HOTEL.

OPEN ALL THE YEAR ROUND.

THIS commodious and well appointed HOTEL, situated at a height of 1,350 feet above sea-level, has just been thoroughly re-decorated, renovated and re-furnished, and a NEW WING has been built, which commands magnificent views of the Harbour and mainland of China.

SPECIAL SUMMER RATES, (FROM APRIL 1ST TO OCTOBER 31ST).

One person, per day.....\$ 4.00

One person, per month.....\$ 75.00

Married couple (occupying one room) per month.....\$ 100.00

Married couple (occupying two rooms) per month.....\$ 150.00

For further particulars, apply to THE MANAGER, New Victoria Hotel, Hongkong, 16th March, 1905. [165]

To be Let.

TO LET, ROOM in "BRACONFIELD ARCADE," QUEEN'S ROAD.

HOUSES Nos. 8 and 20, "BELLILIOS TERRACE," GODOWNS in DUNDRELL STREET.

Apply to BELLILIOS & Co., Hongkong, 15th March, 1905. [166]

TO LET, DWELLING HOUSES, "HIGHCLERE," at MAGAHER GAP.

"RAVENSHILL," WEST, on ROBINSON ROAD.

"DUNDEEV" is ROBINSON ROAD (Gully) fronted.

DEVELOP VILLAS at THE PEAK. FLOORS in BLUE BUILDINGS.

FLOORS in ELGIN STREET, PERK STREET and STANTON STREET.

FLOORS in No. 3, SKELLY STREET. GODOWNS in BLUE BUILDINGS.

No. 7A, PRAYA CENTRAL. Apply to THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT CO., LTD., 11, AGENCY CHINA, Ltd., Hongkong, 15th March, 1905. [167]

"DERMATOL," MANUFACTURED BY FARBER, HUBERT & CO., is effective in eliminating the itching of eczema, and in internal administration against diarrhoea, is described as a remedy.

D. R. KNORR'S ANTI-PYRINE.

(DOSE FOR ADULTS 15 TO 35 GRAINS TWICE.)

Is the most approved and most efficacious remedy in cases of HEADACHE, MIGRAINE, NEURALGIA, RHEUMATISM, FEVER, TYPHUS, INFLUENZA, DENGUE, KRYSS, PELLAS, ROPING COUGH, and many other complaints. It is also the very best Anodyne, and is highly recommended by the Medical Faculty, ALL the Dr. KNORR'S ANTI-PYRINE. Each Tin bears the Inventor's signature: Dr. KNORR, 3rd and 4th.

It is had at every reputable Chemist and Druggist. Supplied exclusively on hand at the CHINA Import and Export Co., Ltd., 11, AGENCY CHINA, Ltd., Hongkong, 15th April, 1904. [168]

Intimations.

STANDARD FAMILY MEDICINES.

WATKINS' SARSAPARILLA

A COMPOUND CONCENTRATED EXTRACT TONIC AND ALTERATIVE

BALSAMIC LINCUS

FOR COLDS, COUGHS, AND ALL THROAT AND LUNG COMPLAINTS.

WATKINS' CATHARTIC PILLS.

A STRICTLY VEGETABLE PURGATIVE.

The Best Family Physic For STOMACH, LIVER AND BOWELS.

WATKINS & CO. THE APOTHECARIES' HALL, 66, Queen's Road Central.

SPECIAL MAKERS OF ARTICLES FOR LADIES COMPLEXION

JAVA POWDER

SOLD EVERYWHERE

LARGE ASSORTMENT OF PERFUMERY PUT UP IN THE LATEST PARISIAN STYLE

ADHESIVE PEARL

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